



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHILLICOTHE RESIDENTS INDICTED FOR CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE 500 GRAMS OR MORE OF METH

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a three Chillicothe, Mo., area residents were indicted by a federal grand jury for their role in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

Jake A. Mashburn, 38, **Samantha J. Mashburn**, 36, and **Thomas A. Ludtke**, 52, of Chillicothe, were charged in a two-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Jan. 12, 2004, in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Jake** and **Samantha Mashburn** and **Ludtke** conspired to distribute between 500 grams and 1.5 kilograms of methamphetamine between Aug. 1, 2004, and Oct. 23, 2004. Count One also alleges that the co-defendants used or possessed a .22-caliber Stevens Savage Arms rifle during the conspiracy.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Jake** and **Samantha Mashburn** and **Ludtke** illegally possessed the .22-caliber rifle. The indictment alleges that they were each felons in possession of the firearm. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Rhoades. It was investigated by the Chillicothe, Mo., Police Department and the United States Postal Inspection Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow